

BOE Meeting Highlights

Board of Education Meeting May 13, 2015

The Board of Education encourages the public to attend the meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month. There is an opportunity at the beginning of each meeting for input from the public. After that the Board conducts the School District's business, including the Superintendent's and Principals' Reports, position appointments, and issues to act upon.

Here are some highlights from the meeting held on May 13. The next meeting will be held Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at 6:30 P.M. in the Jeffers Media Center.

Public participation

- Frank Rugani, President of the Adams Township Foundation, reported to the Board about the recent successful fundraiser dinner that was held in the study hall at Jeffers. The profit from it was \$7,510. The support the Board has given the Foundation has been great. Dr. Rugani heard comments on how nice it was that there were Board members present and it shows there is a good working relationship between the Board and Foundation. The next project for the Foundation is raising the funds to make the trades building functional and sustainable, while continuing to support the school through scholarships and the art and music programs.

Superintendent's Report-Tim Keteri

- The district has a \$12,000 grant to get greenhouses at both schools. They also got a great deal on apple trees from the nature conservancy so each school will have an orchard. At Jeffers it will be in the old parking lot which will be restored with grass.
- The security grant of \$28,000 will give security improvements to both buildings, including improvements to the drop off area at the elementary building.
- There are several NEOLA policy updates for the Board to approve including:
 - Up to date policies in line with the law for evaluations.
 - Title 1 funding must go towards a qualified teacher.
 - A separation of staff discipline. It should go through the principals and then to the superintendent so that the super isn't being the judge and jury.
 - The kindergarten entrance age is 5 by September 1st. Students who are 5 by December can ask for a waiver and still come to school. There are currently 2 students doing this this fall.
 - A change for students waiving immunizations on religious or personal grounds is that parents must go to the health department for an hour long program before getting the waiver. Medical waivers remain the same.
 - An update to policy regarding student suicide includes cutting. A student who cuts their self is to be recommended to a medical personnel immediately.

- Policy on bullying has to include electronic forms, such as text messaging.
- Animals on school property must be in a person's control at all times.
- A school safety plan must be in place.
- State testing is currently happening over a two month period. It is turning into a frustration situation. Mrs. Sherman, the counselor has to administer the testing so they are losing a lot of time with the counselor at an important time for seniors.
- For Michigan's Best Practices, schools have to meet 7 out 9 conditions to receive funding of \$50 a student. The district meets 8.
- He was invited to be a part of a group who went before the BHK Board to voice their concern over BHK spending money from a fund that was supposed to be for district's GE programs.

Principal's Report-Mike Benda, Jeffers High School

- M Step testing is currently happening over a 7 week period. There was a discussion with the Board, principals and some teachers in audience over the difficulties with the new computer tests. There was no noticeable difference in the 4th and 5th grade English tests and the directions for a writing part were buried in text and hard to understand. The math teachers though the math test was not fair in that each question was testing several concepts. On the whole, teachers' opinions are that the test seems very thrown together and hard to understand and puts a strain on students.
- Randy Arens received a \$500 scholarship from the Keweenaw Economic Development Association.

Principal's Report-Kim Harris, South Range Elementary School

- The GE program has been phenomenal this year. Coordinator Bridget Hillard does a great job. This summer programing looks good. From 9 to noon each day it will be free for all students.
- Recent events at the grade school include the volunteer luncheon, ACES day where students exercise led by representatives from Portage, the play at Jeffers, muffins with mom, an anti-bullying week that was a NHS project done by Jeffers student Kylie Muonio, science field trips, and a visit by Mrs. McCormick's environmental literacy class to teach about Earth Day.
- Kindergarten registration was recently held and there are 25 signed up, which is a good sign as it is a little more than this time last year.

Action Items

- The Board approved the principals' evaluations.
- The Board approved a one year sabbatical for Cindy McCormick.